

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 7-11 and 24 as follows:

7. (currently amended) A composition containing a labile disulfide bond for inserting into an organism, comprising: a disulfide bond [, wherein] located between at least two [reactable] reactive groups, [at least one on each side of the disulfide bond,] that have reacted to form [a] covalent bonds with [one or more] different molecules on each side of the disulfide bond, [such that] wherein the disulfide bond [remains] is labile and is cleaved more rapidly than oxidized glutathione; and cleavage of the disulfide bond results in the formation of two molecules.

8. (currently amended) The [compound] composition of claim 7 wherein the [compound] composition is amphipathic.

9. (currently amended) The [compound] composition of claim 7 wherein the [compound] composition comprises a polymer.

10. (currently amended) The [method] composition of claim 7 wherein the [polymer] composition is selected from the group consisting of a polycation, a polyanion, a neutral polymer, and an amphipathic polymer.

11. (currently amended) The [method] composition of claim 7 wherein the [compound] composition contains a ligand.

24. (currently amended) A composition for inserting into an organism, comprising: a disulfide bond that is activated by intramolecular attack from a free thiol such that it is cleaved more rapidly than oxidized glutathione wherein at least two reactable groups, at least one on each side of the disulfide bond, have reacted to form[a] covalent bonds with [one or more molecules,] at least one molecule on each side of the disulfide bond, such that cleavage of the disulfide bond [is cleaved more rapidly than oxidized glutathione and is activated by intramolecular attack from a free thiol resulting] results in the formation of two molecules.

25) (previously amended) The composition of claim 24 wherein the composition is amphipathic.

26) (previously amended) The composition of claim 24 wherein the composition comprises a polymer.

27) (previously amended) The composition of claim 26 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a polycation, a polyanion, a neutral polymer, and an amphipathic polymer.

28) (previously amended) The composition of claim 24 wherein the composition contains a ligand.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 112:

Claims 7-11 have been rejected under §112, second paragraph. The Action states that the metes and bounds of the term "physiological condition" are not defined. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the invention and more clearly specify the metes and bounds of the liability of the disulfide bonds.

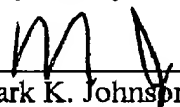
Claims 7-11 and 24-28 have been rejected under §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 24 to be consistent with the telephone interview and to obviate the rejection. In the proposed claims, Applicants have more clearly stated that the disulfide bond exists between reactive groups that have been used to form covalent bonds to other molecules. Support for "reactive groups that have reacted to form covalent bonds with different molecules on each side of the disulfide bond" is found in the specification on page 5, line 15 through page 18, line 27.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 7-11 and 24-28 have been rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by the Pierce catalog and Arpicco *et al.* Applicants have amended claims 7 and 24 to be consistent with the telephone interview and to obviate the rejection.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendments and discussion, it is submitted that independent claims 7 and 24 are allowable and therefore dependent claims 8-11 and 25-28, which depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claims, should be allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request an early notice to such effect.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, CM1 Fax Center 703.308.4242 on Friday, March 14, 2003.

  
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